

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6494
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBSSSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2679

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH ZA
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRELIMINARY ZAMBIAN REACTION TO US-UK
PROPOSAL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE CALLED THE BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSIONER AND ME IN TO SEE HIM SATURDAY AFTERNOON.
HE SAID THE GRZ HAD NOT YET STUDIED THE PROPOSALS IN
DETAIL AND WERE NOT GIVING A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO THEM,
BUT THAT IT HAD SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS WHICH IT WISHED
TO PASS ON. IT SEEMED TO THE GRZ HE SAID THAT MUCH OF
THE PROPOSAL WAS UNEXCEPTABLE. HOWEVER IT DID NOT
SEEM TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE MAIN POINT WHICH WAS HOW
TO GET RID OF SMITH, AND WHAT HAPPENS
IN THE EVENT THAT HE REJECTS THE PROPOSALS AND PROCEEDS
WITH HIS PLANS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ZAMBIA HE SAID
WAS CONCERNED NOT ONLY ABOUT HOW WE PLANNED TO GET RID OF
SMITH BUT ALSO OF THE ENTIRE ESTABLISHMENT WHICH HE
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REPRESENTED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL RIGHT A FEW YEARS AGO
TO SIMPLY TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY STRUCTURE
BUT THE DAY FOR THAT HAS PASSED.

2. MWALE ALSO BROUGHT UP THE RECENT RHODESIAN AIR ATTACKS
NEAR FEIRA(SEPTEL) HE SAID FOR THE FIRST TIME NAPALM HAD
BEEN USED, THREE PERSONS KILLED AND THREE INJURED". ZAMBIA

COULD NOT CONTINUE TO TOLERATE THIS. HE SAID HE WAS AFRIAD THAT, AS THE PRESIDENT PREDICTED IN THE PAST THE DAY WOULD NOT BE LONG HENCE WHEN THE WEST WOULD BE FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF SMITH AND WE WOULD BE ON OPPOSITE SIDES. ZAMBIA WOULD INSIST ON THE RIGHT TO CALL ON HELP FROM ANYONE. IT MUST ACT AND WAS GETTING READY TO RETALIATE.

3. IN REPLY TO THE FONMINS MAIN POINT ABOUT STEPS TO GET RID OF SMITH, HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES NOTED THAT THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THAT MATTER IN THE PROPOSAL WAS CONTAINED IN PARA TEN WHICH DECLARED IT A BASIS PREMISE OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS THAT THE PRESENT REGIME WOULD SURRENDER POWER.

AND STATED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE SUCH STEPS AS SEEMED APPROPRIATE TO SECURE THE TRANSFER OF POWER. MORE THAN THIS HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY BUT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO INQUIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE PLAN WAS TO PRESENT THE PROPOSAL TO THE UN SHORTLY AND THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT AT THAT TIME TO HAVE AFRICAN SUPPORT.

4. MWALE AGREED THAT AFRICAN HELP WAS NECESSARY. THE THIRD WORD, HE SAID WOULD LISTEN TO ZAMBIA BUT BEFORE IT COULD AGREE TO SUPPORT US IT WOULD NEED ANSWERS IN TERMS VERY MUCH MORE PRECISE AND DETAILED THAN WE HAD BEEN ABLE
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TO SUPPLY SO FAR.

5. I CALLED MWALE'S ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT ON LAW AND ORDER, NOTING THAT IT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT VERY CAREFULLY IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH PRESIDENTS KAUNDA AND NYERERE. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD HOW IMPORTANT A MATTER THIS WAS TO THEM. IT HAD BEEN MY IMPRESSION THAT THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE BASICALLY AFFECTED BY THE RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER. I SAID WE WERE CERTAINLY COUNTING ON THEIR HELP IN THE UN WHICH WE BELIEVED TO BE AS MUCH IF NOT MORE IN THEIR INTERESTS THAN OURS. WITH REGARD TO WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO RID OF SMITH, I SAID THAT WE HAD MADE CLEAR ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER ANY PARTY HAD A VETO OVER THE PROPOSAL. OUR INITIATIVES WAS REALLY A PROCESS, AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL SIMPLY A POINT ALONG THE WAY. WE INTENDED TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UN WHERE WE WERE HOPING TO GET A REPRESENTATIVES NAMED WHO COULD TAKE PART IN THE CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBERATION FORCES, THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE AND COMMANDERS OF THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCE. IF THE RHODESIANS REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS THEY WOULD HAVE TO DEFEND THEIR POSITION BEFORE THE

WORLD AD IF THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL THEY WOULD FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF FURTHER ACTION. MWALE'S REPLY TO THIS WAS WHY WAIT FOR THE UN? ISN'T THERE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO ACT NOW?

6. ON THE MATTER OF RHODESIA BOMBING ZAMBIA, I NOTED THAT SECY OWEN HAD RAISED THE MATTER IN SALISBURY ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS WARNING THE RHODESIANS OF THE DAMAGE WHICH SUCH AN ATTACK MIGHT DO, NOT ONLY TO THE CHANCES OF NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT, BUT TO THE WORLDS ATTITUDE TOWARDS RHODESIA.

7. COMMENT: IN ALL DISCUSSONS WITH MWALE HE HAS STRESSED THIS CENTRAL POINT OF HOW WE PLAN TO GET RID OF SMITH. HE CONTENTS THAT WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO DO SO BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SHOWS SKEPTICISM THAT WE ARE READY TO APPLY NECESSARY PRESSURES. WHILE MWALE MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA, HE DID NOT SAY SO AND I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE HAD NOT CALLED US IN ON HIS OWN. FURTHERMORE I STRONGLY DOUBT THAT MWALE IS AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THE LAST TEN DAYS. AS FAR AS I AM AWARE HE ONLY PARTICIPATED IN THE ONE LARGE MEETING WITH THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS DURING THE MORNING OF GUAUT 29. HE WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN I SAW PRESIDENT KAUNDA. HE INDICATED SOME DOUBT ABOUT THE STATEMENT ON LAW AND ORDER EVEN AFTER I SAID THAT THE WORDING HAD BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

8. HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES WILL BE REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO MWALE. I TOLD THE FORMIN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO HIS QUESTION IN PRECISE OR DETAILED MANNER SINCE OUR ACTIONS WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE RHODESIANS RESPONDED TO THE PROPOSALS. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS ON WHAT WE CAN SAY TO MWALE, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM. LOW

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